

Alaska Center for Climate and Health - E-News
Raising Awareness about Climate Change Impacts on Public Health
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Arctic Ocean grows 20 percent fresher *April 04, 2011* - The amount of fresh water in the Arctic Ocean has increased by 20 percent since the 1990s, a trend that could eventually hamper ocean currents and may chill countries bordering the North Atlantic. Scientists took an unprecedented series of [5,000 measurements of salinity](#) between 2006 and 2008 throughout the Arctic, creating a snapshot of fresh water content in the upper 500 meters of the ocean. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Native Village honored for protection of walrus *April 6, 2011* - The Native Village of [Point Lay](#) was presented with an "Outstanding Partner" Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The award recognized the work by residents of the village to protect walruses in September 2010. At that time, tens of thousands of migrating Pacific walruses hauled out on the Chukchi Sea barrier beach within sight of the community. See a National Geographic [Video](#) short of the walruses gathered there. [Arctic Sounder](#)

Northern university focusing on climate change and health – E-News subscriber Dr. Jon Rosales, a professor of environmental studies at St. Lawrence University in northern New York State, has students interested in the relationships between climate change and public health. Tyler Pidgeon class of 2013 is constructing a curriculum that will combine his interests in biology, health sciences and climate change. His [seminar paper](#) provides an excellent primer on the topic of infectious disease and climate change.

Summer 'bug explosion' predicted *March 22, 2011* – Climate impacts such as longer summers and a northerly advancing forest have set the stage for new insects in Alaska. An infestation of alders in Southcentral Alaska is developing from the green alder soft fly. Alders are important "keystone species" feeding moose and helping to keep creek banks from eroding. Insects native to Alaska have also been thriving in the warmer climate including green looper caterpillars that turn into moths come late fall. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Alaska Climate Events Map – Visit our [Google Map](#) to see incidents and events that have occurred around Alaska this month, with relevance for climate and health.

The *Climate and Health E-News* is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate impact on health. For back issues or to join the mailing list visit our [website](#) or contact us via e-mail or by phone.

Regards - Mike

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